

PHILPOT PUZZLED

'There's someone else,' she says,
sitting opposite him tracing

with a finger too elegant
for his wife, patterns on the oilskin.

She is speaking, not to or at Philpot
not even through him, but slightly

over his shoulder; and the sentence
comes from someone other than Maureen.

'There's someone else,' is a guest
in the house replacing her, discarding

her life's 'A goin' dance wid Roy.
Expec' me when you see me language.

He's afraid to touch the newly-
elegant finger which is not hers;

and searches for a suitable phrase
of submission to match his new status.

But it doesn't come. He is still
pondering, alone at the table, giving

the impression of a defeated Philpot
who doesn't care.